

In the past:

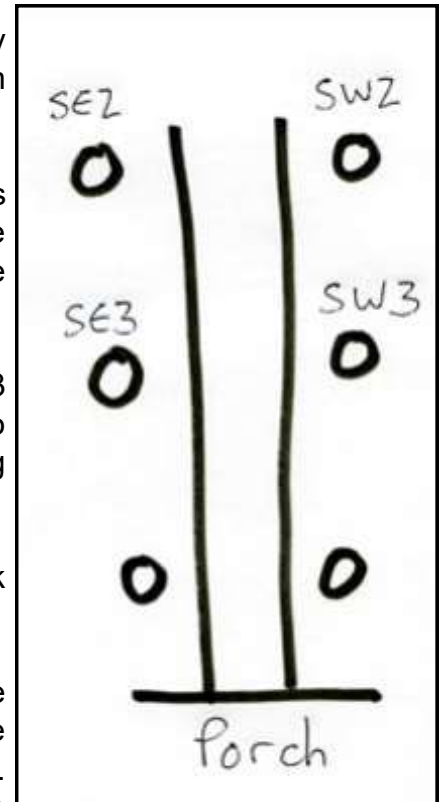
1793: *Gilbert White's Journals* March 17th 1793 'On Friday last my brother and I walked up to Bentley church, which is more than a mile from here. There is an avenue of aged yew-trees up to the church'.

1939: Mee's *King's England* noted that there were '7 ancient yews leading to its doorways. They are not huge in girth but some of them have such a mighty spread of branches that props and timber arches have been built to hold them up'.

1979/86: *Hampshire treasures vol 6* describes 'an avenue of 10 yews, 3 of which have been recently replanted. The originals reputed to be 500 to 600 years old. The branches of two of the trees on the south east, having a spread of over 60', are supported on oak beams'.

2000: We recorded 6 yews growing in pairs either side of an ornate brick path. The girths of the four largest were recorded.

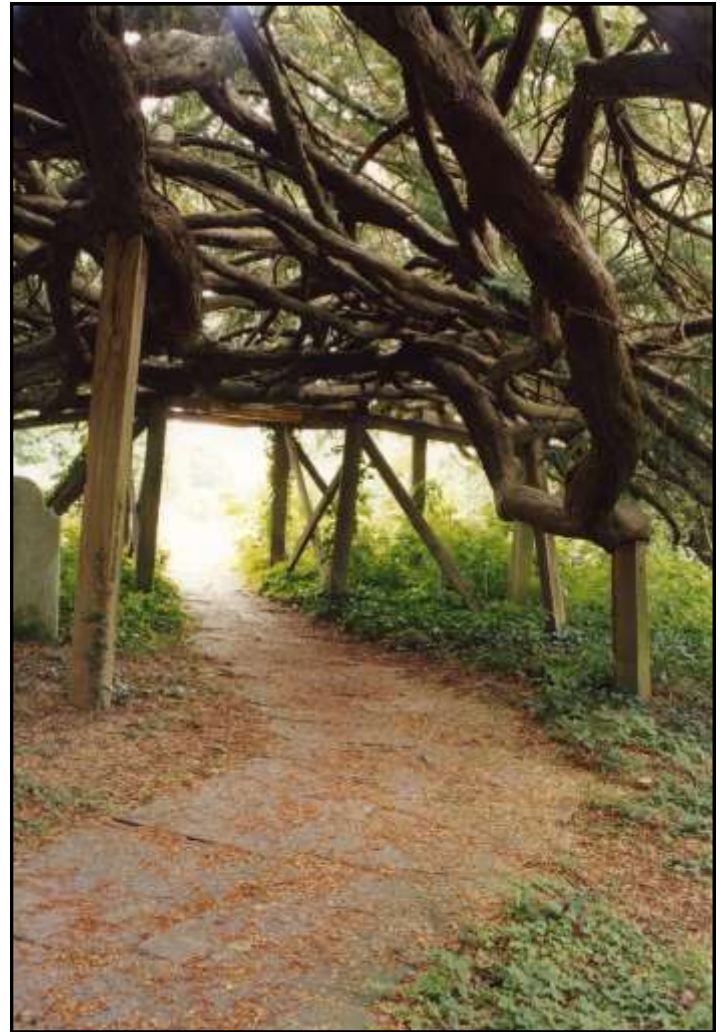
The yew SW2 is female with a girth of 10' 1" at 5'. It is hollow on the side facing away from the path, with heartwood spilling out revealing some internal growth. When the heartwood is gone a thin shell will remain. Much of the foliage was yellow. In 2012, when Peter Norton took the photos, girth was 11' 10" at 2'.



In 2000 what remained of the yew at SW3 had a girth of about 8' at 5'. It gives the impression of once being larger. Its closeness to the path suggests that it has been constantly cut back in the past. Photo 2012 Peter Norton.



The yew SE2 is male with a girth of 12' 5" at 5' in 2000, when the photos of its 'mighty spread of branches' were taken. In 2012 Peter Norton recorded a girth of 12' 4" at 2'. Branches of this yew have been trained away from the main path leading to the church, with many abrupt changes in the direction of growth. This was a tree of great vigour.



The yew SE3 is female, with a swirling fluted bole. Three large limbs had been removed at 6' 8". Girth was 12' 11" at 4' and 12' 10" at 5' in 2000.

In 2012 the following were recorded by Peter Norton: 13' 5" at 2' and 12' 11" at 4'. Nails in the trunk at the height of 2' were removed, but a new nail had been hammered in at 4'. It is seen here in 2012.



The two remaining yews on the plan are young trees.